
Appendix D: RCRA Regulatory Requirements and Interpretations

Timely separation of lead shot and bullets from soil at active ranges, recycling of the lead, and subsequent redeposition of the soil on the active range is exempt from RCRA regulation.

1. Reclaiming and Recycling Lead Shot

In a final rule published in the Federal Register on May 12, 1997 (62 Fed. Reg. 25997), the EPA excluded processed scrap metal from RCRA regulation with the intention of promoting the goal of safe recycling (40 CFR 261.4(a)(13)). Scrap metal (not requiring processing) being reclaimed and recycled was already exempt from RCRA Subtitle C regulation (40 CFR 261.6(a)(3)(ii)). Thus, the EPA clarified that the exclusion for processed scrap metal being recycled applies to the scrap metal that has undergone a processing step by the range owner or a reclaimer.

The term “sorted” was added to the definition of “processed scrap metal” (40 CFR 261.1(c)(10)) as a typical step used in scrap metal recycling. This definition also includes “manually or physically altered to either separate it into distinct materials to enhance economic value or to improve the handling of materials.” Lead shot/bullet reclamation at ranges falls under this type of activity.

The EPA “believes that processed scrap metal being recycled is distinct from other secondary materials defined as wastes when recycled due to established markets for the material’s utilization, inherent positive economic value of the material, the physical form of the material, and absence of damage incidents attributable to the material, and is therefore sufficiently product - like that maintaining RCRA regulatory jurisdiction over the material is not necessary.” (62 Fed. Reg 26011)

EPA’s Office of Solid Waste issued guidance in 1997 indicating that lead shot, when recycled, is considered a scrap metal and therefore exempt from RCRA regulation. A copy of the March 17, 1997 letter with this guidance is attached.

2. Placement of Soil After Removal of Lead

For soil placed back on an active range after a BMP has been applied to remove the lead, the following regulatory approach has been followed. On February 12, 1997, EPA published the RCRA Subtitle C Military Munitions Rule in the Federal Register (62 Fed. Reg. 6621). The Military Munitions Rule considers range management to be a necessary part of the safe use of munitions for their intended purpose. Thus, the range clearance activity (recovery of lead shot and bullets) is an intrinsic part of the range use. Therefore, the

rule excludes range clearance activities (including the placement of soil back on the range) from RCRA Subtitle C regulation. Although the Military Munitions Rule did not apply to non-military ranges, EPA, in its response to comments on the proposed rule, clearly stated that “it felt that the ‘range clearance’ interpretation in the final Military Munitions Rule is consistent with the EPA’s interpretations for non-military ranges.” In addition, the EPA’s Director of the Office of Solid Waste sent the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation a letter dated April 29, 1997, confirming that the Military Munitions Rule range clearance principles apply equally to non-military ranges. A copy of the letter is attached.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 2046
March 17, 1997

Mr. Duncan Campbell
Environmental Protection Agency, Region V
RCRA Enforcement
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Enclosed please find a memorandum on the regulatory status of lead shot, which includes a general discussion on the regulatory status of lead shot as scrap metal. I hope that this information is sufficient to address your specific concerns as they relate to the pile of lead shot at the Saxon Metals facility.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (703) 308-8826.

Sincerely,

Jeffery S. Hannapel
Office of Solid Waste

Enclosure

To: Duncan Campbell, EPA Region V
From: Jeff Hannapel, EPA Office of Solid Waste
Date: March 13, 1997
Re: Regulatory Status of Lead Shot

Based on our conversations, it is my understanding that Saxon Metals received for recycling a shipment of approximately 30,000 pounds of lead shot from a commercial indoor shooting range. Smokeless gun powder is, presumably, commingled with the lead shot. The mixture appears to exhibit the ignitability characteristic of hazardous waste (as evidenced by the incident in which the material ignited when Saxon Metals was attempting to load it into the furnace with a front-end loader). You have asked our office to provide you with guidance on the regulatory status of the lead shot portion of the mixture, specifically whether it is considered a spent material or scrap metal.

The Agency has taken the position that the discharge of ammunition or lead shot does not constitute hazardous waste disposal because the Agency does not consider the rounds from the weapons to be "discarded." As you know, discard is a necessary criterion to be met before a material can be considered a solid waste and subsequently a hazardous waste. 40 CFR §261.2(a). The Agency's interpretation regarding discard is based on the fact that

shooting is in the normal and expected use pattern of the manufactured product, i.e., the lead shot. Enclosed for your information is a September 6, 1988 letter from EPA to IDEM on this particular point.

In the federal regulations, the term, "scrap metal," is defined as "bits and pieces of metal parts (e.g., bars, turnings, rods, sheets, wire) or metal pieces that may be combined together with bolts or soldering (e.g., radiators, scrap automobiles, railroad box cars), which when worn or superfluous can be recycled." 40 C.F.R. §261.1. In the Federal Register preamble for the final regulations on the definition of solid waste, EPA indicated that "scrap metal is defined as products made of metal that become worn out (or are off-specification) and are recycled to recover their metal content, or metal pieces that are generated from machine operations (i.e., turnings, stampings, etc.) which are recycled to recover metal." 50 Fed. Reg. 614, 624 (1985). The lead shot portion of the Saxon Metals pile would be considered scrap metal pursuant to the regulatory definition of scrap metal.

EPA provided further clarification on the regulatory status of scrap metal in the Federal Register preamble to the definition of solid waste final regulations:

[a]t proposal, scrap metal that was generated as a result of use by consumers (copper wire scrap, for example) was defined as a spent material. (This type of scrap is usually referred to as "obsolete scrap.") Scrap from metal processing, on the other hand (such as turnings from machining operations) was defined as a by-product. (It is usually called "prompt scrap.") Yet the scrap metal in both cases is physically identical (i.e., the composition and hazard of both by-product and spent scrap is essentially the same) and, when recycled is recycled in the same way - by being utilized for metal recovery (generally in a secondary smelting operation). In light of the physical similarity and identical means of recycling of prompt scrap and obsolete scrap, the Agency has determined that all scrap metal should be classified the same way for regulatory purposes. Rather than squeeze scrap metal into either the spent material or by-product category, we have placed it in its own category.

50 Fed. Reg. at 624. Based on these regulatory passages, the lead shot portion of the pile would be considered scrap metal, and not a spent material. The lead shot is a product that is made of metal that can be recycled to recover metal content. Furthermore, the lead shot has not been "discarded" by virtue of its discharge at the shooting range, because the discharge is within the normal and expected use pattern of the manufactured product. Accordingly, lead shot would be considered scrap metal for regulatory purposes. Scrap metal is a solid waste, but it is exempt from the regulatory requirements of Subtitle C when it is recycled. 40 C.F.R. §261.6(a)(3)(ii). As part of the Phase IV land disposal restrictions supplemental rulemaking (which was proposed January 25, 1996 and is expected to be finalized in April 1997), processed scrap metal and two categories of unprocessed scrap metal that is being recycled would be excluded from RCRA jurisdiction.

Please note that this discussion of the regulatory status is limited to the lead shot portion of the pile as you requested. To the extent that the entire pile exhibits the ignitability or reactive characteristic of hazardous waste, the mixture of materials would be considered hazardous waste and not scrap metal. The scrap metal designation for the lead shot would be applicable only to the extent that the lead shot could be segregated from the other materials in

the pile.

I hope that this guidance on the regulatory status of lead shot recovered from shooting ranges provides you with the clarification that you needed. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20480
APR 29 1997

Mr. John P. Cahill
Acting Commissioner
State of New York
Department of Environmental Conservation
Albany, New York 12233-1010

Dear Mr. Cahill:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 1997 to Administrator Browner requesting a clarification of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Final Military Munitions Rule regarding the extension of its range clearance principles to non-military ranges. Although the final rule addresses only military ranges, we agree with your view that the range clearance principles apply equally to non-military ranges [see comment no. 5 on page 36 of the enclosed excerpt from the Military Munitions Final Rule Response to Comments Background Document].

We are aware of the State of New York's active leadership role in the clean-up of private firing ranges. We appreciate your writing in support of the range clearance aspects of the final Military Munitions Rule and we will consider your suggestions that we issue broader guidance on the applicability of its principles to non-military ranges.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Cotsworth, Acting Director
Office of Solid Waste

Enclosure